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and

11 December 1951

THROUGH

General Counsel's Office  
Recorder, Efficiency Awards Committee

Evaluation of the "Per Diem Calculator" and release of this suggestion  
by CIA

1. In response to the memorandum dated 11 October 1951, requesting return of your "Per Diem Calculator" working models and in accordance with our recent telephone conversation, I personally presented the subject Calculator to three Veterans' Administration officials for evaluation. These VA officials, chosen for their qualifications to render unbiased and authoritative appraisal of your suggested device, are: Mr. C. F. Whitmore, Acting Chief, Travel Section; Mrs. M. L. McDougald, Chief, Travel Reimbursement Section; Miss I. Galusha, Assistant Chief, Travel Reimbursement Section.

2. The VA representatives mentioned above, following independent study of your "Per Diem Calculator" and attendant data, unanimously agreed that use of your suggested calculator by travelers and travel clerks in computing per diem would neither accelerate this mental process nor appreciably reduce the probability of human error. Consequently, they concluded that use of your suggested device by travelers and travel clerks would not prove feasible. It seems worth noting that Mrs. McDougald and Miss Galusha based their decisions on sixteen years' experience in calculating travel allowances of Government employees. Both of them stressed the fact that the subject device actually does not calculate the amount of allowable per diem inasmuch as the exact amount of a per diem payment still must be arrived at through a "paper and pencil" operation.

3. I wish to point out that these adverse conclusions in no way detract from the admirable initiative and acumen exemplified by your preparation and presentation of this suggestion. In fact, all the CIA and VA officials who reviewed the "Per Diem Calculator" suggestion voiced their appreciation of the great amount of thought and effort which it so clearly represents. Again I express to both of you the commendation of the entire Committee.

4. In accordance with your request that "a release and waiver of all claim to title or interest in this idea and device be provided to [redacted] by the proper officials," I am transmitting this memorandum through the Office of the General Counsel. The decision of the General Counsel relative to your request will be incorporated in this memorandum or made the subject of a separate document.

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5. I assure you the Committee will be glad to give full consideration to any future suggestions which either of you may care to submit. All employees are encouraged to submit recommendations for the improvement of Agency operations and management.

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